

Strange and Wonderful News
FROM
Holland, & Flanders,
Zealand, and Brabant ;

Giving a True and Just Account of a Sad, and
SUDDAIN

FLOOD,
Or, Innundation of VVaters,

Which happened in those parts about the latter end of
the last *January*, 1682. which Drowned both Men, Women, and
Children, to the Number of about Twelve or fourteen Thousand,
besides an unknown number of Beasts and Cattle.

Also, Giving you an account of about Eight
Thousand Acres of Land lost and Drowned by these Floods.

Together, telling you of the hard shifts many were put
to *to save their Lives* by getting to the tops of Houses and Churches
for Refuge, where many of them Starved and perished with
Hunger and Cold.

Likewise, How Hundreds of Dead Persons are daily found
floating on the Waters ; And also, how many dead Carcasses were
washed out of their Grave, Town-Walls broke down, Forts and
Castles carried away and Ruin'd.

With many more strange Wonders never before heard of.

Printed for J. Millis, in the Year, 1682. 6 Feb.

Strange and Wonderful News

FROM

Holland & Flanders

Scotland, and Barbary;

Giving a True and Just Account of the

—SUNDAY—

FLOOD

Or, Inundation of Waters

Which happened in those parts about the year 1662, which Drowned both Men, Women, and Children, to the Number of about Twelve or Thirteen Thousand, besides an unknown number of Beasts and Cattle.

Also, Giving you an account of about Eight

Thousand Acres of Land lost and Drowned by these Floods.

Together, telling you of the hard Distresses which were put to some of their Lives by getting to the tops of Houses and Churches for Refuge, where many of them starved and perished with Hunger and Cold.

I know not how Hundreds of Dead Persons are to be seen floating on the Waters; And also, how many dead Cattle were washed out of their Stalls, Town-Walls broke down, Towns and Castles carried away and Ruined.

And thus you may see the great Ruin of the Land.

Printed for J. Smith, in the Year 1662.

(1)
Strange and Wonderful News, &c.



IF ever Men were fill'd with astonishment, or any amazed with wonder, here is a subject no less filled with variety of disasters, than those which heretofore did set at work their admiring imaginations. I mean this calamitous state of the Affrighted Inhabitants (now left Alive) in the hereafter mentioned places, who are lately made sensible (to their sorrows and griefs) of the strange and wonderful impetuosity of the late storms, occasioned by unwanted Floods happening amongst them: An exact and impartial Account of which my intent is now to acquaint you with according to the Contents of several Letters sent over to *England* by the remaining Inhabitants of the (almost destroyed) places. But not too much to digress from my intended purpose, let me acquaint you, That on

January the 10th. Advice was sent from a friend of the great fear and danger they were there in, by reason of the great and wonderful Floods which overflowed the Banks, and carryed away all their out-works, together with the great *Half-Moon*. The people were not only troubled at their great (and almost irreparable) losses, but also enforced for their own preservations, to barre up their doors and betake themselves to their upper Rooms and tops of their Houses for prevention of those eminent dangers, which seemed to threaten them with unavoidable Destruction, great numbers of People and Cattle were drowned, and their fears increased so fast, that they were forced to hang up Lights in their Steeples to give notice of what dreadful danger they were in, the Waters were so high and impetuous, that they carried away all the *Draw-bridges*, broke down the Gates and Draw-bridges, which obliged the Governour and Garrison to retire to one of the highest *Bastions*, from Three after Noon till mid-Night.

Nor has *Brussels* been unacquainted with these outrageous Inundations, for the events thereof have been destructive both to Men and Beasts in the places thereof adjacent, the Island of *Terrace* being wholly destroyed, with most of its Inhabitants, (a Story dreadful to relate) besides several other places thereof, who have shared of the True rigid Fate, as *Terrace*, *Princeland*, and most part of the Neighbouring places, and *Zealand* had not escaped without very considerable loss and detriment, the whole Island, or most part thereof being under water, nothing to be seen above Water but the tops of Churches and Steeples, Boats being found on the tops

of Houses, with the bodies of many dead people being washed out of their Graves, and lye floating on the triumphant Floods; while many thousands of dead bodies are in many places taken up.

Nor is the before mentioned Calamities of these (irrecoverably lost) creatures; the Title of that Misery which some poor souls have endured; for it is questionless, that in such cases of necessity, a speedy death is the welcomer of the two, but as by the ancient Maxime it is observable, that while there is life, there is hope; so many of these poor distressed Creatures for their own preservation had betaken themselves to the highest places of refuge they could well fly to; where in extreme Hunger, seconded by unsupportable blasts of starving Winds, their hopes beginning to grow faint, while all appearance of help seemed to deny them the least assistance! Then, when their lives began to be burthened; while in this Abyss of Misery despair threatened them with immediate Destruction; and hopes as it were on a swift Courser posting from them as disdaining to look back on their distress, such was the unhappy fate of these poor souls encompassed with fear and danger; for which way soever they turned their eyes, they could see nothing but the grim Messengers of pale Death, ever ready to assault their miserable and much to be pitied Persons.

To this languishing and deplorable condition, waiting (though sometimes) with little or no hope, they remained till what with want of Food and the too frequent visits of Eastern blast; together with the perplexity of mind and horror of the Soul, when relief (by Gods mercy) came to them. It is attested by credible

Letters,

Letters, that many, whose natural countenances were fresh and ruddy, were strangely transfigured into another hue, and lookt as black as if they had never been otherwise; many of them dying in very short time, notwithstanding the great and diligent care taken by those who were left capable to look to or assist them: I refer it to the ingenious Reader, whether the condition of these living Objects of pitty, were not more deplorable than those, whose sudden destruction exempted from these lingering deaths, and I hope made them happy by this unexpected change.

But yet I must acquaint you with a great many supplies of unwelcome tydings, and never (till now) heard of disasters; for we have daily more and more intelligence of unspeakable damages sustained by these wonderful Inundations: for from *Flanders* we hear of the inestimable losses they have met withall; the Land of *Assenede* being irrecoverably lost; and above a Thousand persons destroyed by the outrage of the Waters; but one man only left of that quarter to relate the distressed misery of those who the merciless Floods had swallowed up: And from *Antwerp* we hear, it seems not (now) strange to see several hundreds, yea, hundreds, daily floating on the River, as being unhappy participators of this sudden seeming Deluge; and that one particular City is so much dammaged in this Calamity, that it is not to be expressed: all their Merchants Cellars so richly furnished with store of Wines and many other rich Commodities, being so overflowed, that most if not all their goods are either lost or spoyld; and the whole Country bewail that City and *Billeg* so overflowed, that it must be (if ever) recovered with great

great difficulty and unspeakable charge; Their Deputies have already acquainted his Highness that their damages are so considerable, that they are become incapable of all manner of duties, and Imposts, and it is much feared that the Deputies from *Flanders* will insist upon the same particulars: for indeed, all their losses have been so matchless and unparallel'd, that the whole world may justly stand amazed at the rehearsal; It being supposed altogether impossible to ascertain or give a particular account of all the losses sustained in many and several places, that have suffered by this unwelcome accident: The Prince of *Orange* having been extremely damaged in his own particular Estate, besides some hundreds of Families utterly ruined and undone: The *French* have not altogether been so happy as not to taste of this unhappiness, for from *Dunkirk* they give advice, That all their new works have been runned, and that their Harbour is almost choaked up with Sand: the best account we can yet hear of, as to the number of people drown'd and lost in this the greatest Inundation that ever happened, is about twelve thousand, and it is supposed about seven or eight thousand Acres of Ground drown'd, besides a multiplicity of Beasts, not known as to the quantity; it is also thought that ten Millions of money will not repair the losses, besides what may hereafter be more plainly manifested; for the Deputies of *Antwerp* assert to his Highness, that some Millions of Money will not repair their Injuries. The occasion of these Floods, as is supposed, was by the great Rains lately fallen in those parts, which brought down great quantities of Waters, into the Rivers *Alaze*, *Skeld*, and the *Rhine*; The Wind being at that time (as it pleased God)

God) *North-West*, and beating violently upon the shore, together with a full Spring-Tide, happening at that very juncture of time, whereby the Rivers could not empty themselves, but in Conjunction all together, broke down the Banks and Ditches, overflowing both Towns and Cities, and carrying away almost all that stood before them, to the great astonishment of all, and the utter ruine of many persons therabouts, inhabiting

It is also imagined by some persons, that the suffer they have now sustained, does far exceed those of their late, long, and cruel War; But now let us not only admire the miserable state of these afflicted Souls, but also call to mind the great mercies of our ever-living God, who notwithstanding the multitudes of our Sins, bathed in the midst of threatening dangers, preserved us from the rage and fury of those, who for many years have been diligently seeking our destruction, which is sufficiently thank him for, and also to continue his blessed favour to us, is to Repent unfeignedly of our Wickedness, to forsake Sin and wholly turn to God with all our hearts and all our Souls, and doubtless such Holy Engagements will prevail with him, who certainly ever mer, and doubtless will be to the end, the Spring and Fountain of all Love and Mercy.

of money will not repair the losses, better what may hereafter be more plainly manifested; for the Diseases of Worms all over his Kingdom, the commonest of the occasion of Money will not repair their Injuries. The occasion of these Floods as is supposed, was by the great Rain lately fallen in those parts, which brought down great Quantities of Water into the Rivers, Lakes, and the Rains; The Wind and the Storm (as it is called) (Col)

